

# Appendix A: Applicable Legislation and Policies

This appendix describes the key regulations and policies that form the legal context for development of the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment*.

## National Park Service Enabling Legislation

**Act of June 30, 1864, 13 Statute (Stat.) 325, 16 United States Code (USC) §48.** This act authorizes a grant to California for the “Yosemite Valley,” and for land embracing the “Mariposa Big Tree Grove.” This tract was “to be held for public use, resort, and recreation” by the State of California, and to “be inalienable for all time.”

**Act of August 25, 1916 (National Park Service Organic Act), Public Law (PL) 64-235, 16 USC §1 et seq., as amended.** On August 15, 1916, Congress created the National Park Service with the National Park Service Organic Act. This act, as reaffirmed and amended in 1970 and 1978, establishes a broad framework of policy for the administration of national parks:

The Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as National Parks, Monuments, and Reservations... by such means and measures as to conform to the fundamental purpose of the said Parks, Monuments, and Reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

## General Legislation and Policies

**Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508).** The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act establish the process by which federal agencies fulfill their obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act process. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations ascertain the requirements for environmental impact statements and environmental assessments that document the National Environmental Policy Act process. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations also define such key terms as “cumulative impact,” “mitigation,” and “significantly” to ensure consistent application of these terms in environmental documents. This environmental impact statement was prepared as directed in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations.

**Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.** The objective of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act is to provide that wildlife conservation receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features or water resources development programs. Sections 1 and 2 of the act mandate that fish and wildlife receive equal consideration with water resources development programs throughout planning, development, operation, and maintenance. Whenever a federal agency proposes to impound, divert, channelize, or otherwise alter or modify any stream, river, or other body of water for any purpose, the agency must first consult and coordinate its actions and projects with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This consultation and coordination process addresses ways to

conserve wildlife resources by preventing loss of and damage to such resources as well as to further develop and improve these resources.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1970. PL 91-190, 83 Stat. 852, 42 USC §4341 et seq.**

The National Environmental Policy Act process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act are set forth by the Council on Environmental Quality. The National Environmental Policy Act process guides the overall planning process for the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment*.

**National Park Service Management Policies.** *Management Policies* is the basic policy document of the National Park Service, superseding the 1988 edition. This document is the highest of the three levels of guidance documents in the National Park Service Directives System and provides policies applicable to management of the National Park System. *Management Policies* provides guidance on management of natural resources, cultural resources, wilderness, park facilities, and commercial visitor services, as well as guidance on park system planning, land protection, interpretation and education, and use of the parks.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 as amended (PL 90-542; 16 USC 12371–1287).** This act established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and designated the first Wild and Scenic Rivers. The act requires a comprehensive management plan for designated rivers and contains guidance for their management, particularly with regard to free-flowing condition and Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Section 3(a)(62) contains the language of the 1987 act that added the Merced River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. All actions proposed in this project will protect and enhance the values that are recognized by the Merced Wild and Scenic River designation.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Guidelines, 1982.** These guidelines were developed jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of the Interior, the two departments that manage designated rivers through their bureaus. The guidelines are intended to foster consistent interpretation and application of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## Natural Resources Legislation

**Bald Eagle Protection Act.** No person within the United States or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, shall possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, export, or import at any time or in any manner any bald eagle or any golden eagle, alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof. The Secretary of the Interior can permit the taking, possession, and transportation of specimens thereof for scientific or exhibition purposes or for the religious purposes of American Indian tribes if the action is determined to be compatible with the preservation of the bald eagle or golden eagle.

**California Clean Air Act.** The 1989 amendments to the California Clean Air Act established a statewide air pollution control program. The California Clean Air Act requirements include annual emission reductions, increased development and use of low-emission vehicles, and submittal of air quality attainment plans by regional air districts. The California Air Resources Board has set ambient air quality standards to protect public health and welfare that are stricter

than the national standards. Under the 1988 California Clean Air Act, air basins were designated as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the state standards. Mariposa County exceeds two California ambient standards: ozone throughout the county and particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter in Yosemite Valley. The amendments to the California Clean Air Act require air pollution control districts, such as the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District, to achieve the state standards by the earliest practicable date. The National Park Service works in conjunction with the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District to ensure that all construction activities and development projects meet requirements.

**California Endangered Species Act.** The California Endangered Species Act expanded upon the original plant protection act and enhanced legal protection for plants and wildlife. The California Endangered Species Act parallels the policies of the Federal Endangered Species Act. The state legislation was written to protect state endangered and threatened plant and animal species whose continued existence in California is in jeopardy. The California Endangered Species Act and Sections 2050 and 2097 of the Fish and Game Code prohibit “take” of plant and animal species designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as either endangered or threatened.

**California Fish and Game Code.** Sections 3511 (birds), 4700 (mammals), 5050 (reptiles and amphibians), and 5515 (fish) of the California Fish and Game Code designate certain species as “fully protected.” Fully protected species, or parts thereof, may not be taken or possessed at any time without permission by the California Department of Fish and Game. Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code affords protection to bird nests and birds of prey (orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes).

**California Native Plant Protection Act.** State listing of plant species began in 1977 with the passage of the Native Plant Protection Act. The act directed the California Department of Fish and Game to carry out the legislature’s intent to “preserve, protect, and enhance endangered plants in this state.” The act gave the California Fish and Game Commission the power to designate native plants as endangered or rare, and to require permits for collecting, transporting, or selling such plants. When the California Endangered Species Act was passed, it expanded upon the Native Plant Protection Act and enhanced legal protection for plants. To align with federal regulations, the California Endangered Species Act adopted the categories “threatened” and “endangered” species. It grandfathered all “rare” animals into the act as threatened species, but did not do so for rare plants. Thus, there are three listing categories for plants in California: rare, threatened, and endangered.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly referred to as CERCLA or the Superfund Act)** PL 96-510, 94 Stat. 2767, 42 USC §9601 et seq. Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act to address growing concerns about the need to clean up uncontrolled, abandoned hazardous waste sites and to address future releases of hazardous substances into the environment. Applicable sites in Yosemite National Park are managed under the National Park Service Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act program.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, PL 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, 16 USC §1531 et seq.** The Endangered Species Act protects threatened and endangered species, as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from unauthorized take and directs federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of such species. Section 7 of the act defines

federal agency responsibilities for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and requires preparation of a biological assessment to identify any threatened or endangered species that is likely to be affected by the proposed action. The National Park Service initiated and maintained formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service throughout the compliance process for the Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment in order to meet obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

**Federal Clean Air Act, as amended, PL Chapter 360, 69 Stat. 322, 42 USC §7401 et seq.** Section 118 of the Clean Air Act requires all federal facilities to comply with existing federal, state, and local air pollution control laws and regulations. The National Park Service works in conjunction with the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District to ensure that all construction activities meet requirements.

The Federal Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify national ambient air quality standards to protect public health and welfare. Standards have been set for six criteria pollutants: particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and lead. An area where a standard is exceeded more than three times in three years can be considered a nonattainment area subject to planning and pollution control requirements that are more stringent than for areas which meet the standards.

**Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act) of 1977 (33 USC 1251 et seq.).** The Clean Water Act provides for the restoration and maintenance of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Section 404 of the act prohibits the discharge of fill material into navigable water of the United States, including wetlands, except as permitted under separate regulations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The placement of fill in wetlands should be avoided if there are practicable alternatives.

**Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987.** The 1987 amendments to the act required that the Environmental Protection Agency establish regulations for the issuance of municipal and industrial stormwater discharge permits as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The final Environmental Protection Agency regulations were published in November 1990. These regulations apply to any construction activities that disturb more than one acre of land. A Notice of Intent to comply with the state's General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, and a stormwater pollution prevention plan will be developed and approved for proposed construction projects that affect more than one acre.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act.** The Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulates or prohibits taking, killing, possession of, or harm to migratory bird species listed in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13. This act is an international treaty for the conservation and management of bird species that may migrate through more than one country and is enforced in the United States by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hunting of specific migratory game birds is permitted under the regulations listed in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 20. The act was amended in 1972 to include protection for migratory birds of prey (raptors).

**Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, Section 13020).** Under the authority of the Porter-Cologne Act and federal Clean Water Act, Regional Water Quality Control Boards act as regional agencies for the State Water Resources Control Board and are responsible for regional enforcement of water quality laws and coordination of water quality control activities. The regional board for the Yosemite area is the Central Valley.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended (RCRA), PL 94-580, 30 Stat. 1148, 42 USC §6901 et seq.** This act establishes a regulatory structure for the management of solid and hazardous waste from the point of generation to disposal. In particular, applicable provisions include those that address underground storage tanks and sites contaminated with elements identified under federal and state Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulations.

## Cultural Resources Legislation

**American Indian Religious Freedom Act.** The American Indian Religious Freedom Act is designed to protect and preserve for American Indians access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites.

**Antiquities Act of 1906, PL 59-209, 34 Stat. 225, 16 USC §432 and 43 CFR 3.** This act provides for the protection of historic or prehistoric remains, “or any antiquity,” on federal lands. It protects historic monuments and ruins on public lands. It was superseded by the Archeological Resources Protection Act (1979) as an alternative federal tool for prosecution of antiquities violations in the National Park System.

**Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, PL 96-95, 93 Stat. 712, 16 USC §470aa et seq. and 43 CFR 7, subparts A and B, 36 CFR.** This act secures the protection of archeological resources on public or Indian lands and fosters increased cooperation and exchange of information between private, government, and the professional community in order to facilitate the enforcement and education of present and future generations. It regulates excavation and collection on public and Indian lands. It requires notification of Indian tribes who may consider a site of religious or cultural importance prior to issuing a permit. The act was amended in 1988 to require the development of plans for surveying public lands for archeological resources and systems for reporting incidents of suspected violations.

**Historic Sites Act of 1935.** The Historic Sites Act established a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, PL 89-665, 80 Stat. 915, 16 USC §470 et seq. and 36 CFR 18, 60, 61, 63, 68, 79, 800.** The National Historic Preservation Act requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has developed implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), which allow agencies to develop agreements for consideration of these historic properties. In 1999, Yosemite National Park, in consultation with the Advisory Council, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, American Indian tribes, and the public, developed a Programmatic Agreement for planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance activities. This 1999 Programmatic Agreement provides a process for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, and includes stipulations for identification, evaluation, treatment, and mitigation of adverse effects for

actions affecting historic properties. The National Park Service will follow stipulations of this Programmatic Agreement for all future planning and design projects. The Programmatic Agreement allows the National Park Service to implement standard mitigation measures for some actions, if the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public are notified and provided an opportunity to comment.

**Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act, PL 101-601, 104 Stat. 3049, 25 USC §3001–3013.** This act assigns ownership or control of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony that are excavated or discovered on federal lands or tribal lands to lineal descendants or culturally affiliated Native American groups.

## Executive Orders

**Executive Order 11593: Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment.** This executive order instructs all federal agencies to support the preservation of cultural properties. It directs them to identify and nominate cultural properties under their jurisdiction to the National Register of Historic Places and to “exercise caution... to assure that any federally owned property that might qualify for nomination is not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished, or substantially altered.”

**Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management.** This executive order requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains, and to avoid development in floodplains whenever there is a practical alternative. If a proposed action is found to be in the applicable regulatory floodplain, the agency shall prepare a floodplain assessment, known as a Statement of Findings. A Statement of Findings has been prepared for the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment* in accordance with National Park Service Director’s Order #77-2: Floodplain Management.

**Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands.** This executive order established the protection of wetlands and riparian systems as the official policy of the federal government. It requires all federal agencies to consider wetland protection as an important part of their policies and take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. A Wetland Statement of Findings has been prepared for the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment* in accordance with National Park Service Director’s Order #77-1: Wetland Protection.

**Executive Order 13007: Indian Sacred Sites.** Executive Order 13007 requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of American Indian sacred sites by American Indian religious practitioners, and avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sites.

**Executive Order 13101: Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition.** This executive order requires that federal agencies increase the procurement of environmentally preferable or recovered materials. Agencies are directed to set annual goals to maximize the number of recycled products purchased relative to nonrecycled alternatives. In addition, each agency is to establish a program for promoting cost-effective waste prevention and recycling at each of its facilities. The requirements of this executive order are met by the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment*.

**Executive Order No. 13112: Invasive Species.** This executive order prevents the introduction of invasive species and directs federal agencies to not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species. Actions proposed in the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment* include measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

## Department of the Interior – Director’s Orders

Director’s orders provide guidance for implementing certain aspects of National Park Service policy. Copies of those that have been completed may be obtained by contacting the National Park Service Office of Policy or by accessing the National Park Service web site. The following director’s orders may be relevant to the *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment* planning process.

**Director’s Order #1: The Directives System.** The purpose of this director’s order is to further refine the National Park Service Directives System, first established by Director’s Order #1 on September 1, 1996. The Directives System is a three-level set of documents that give managers and staff comprehensive guidance on National Park Service policy and required and/or recommended practices and procedures. The Directives System is the means by which the director delegates line and functional authorities and assigns responsibilities. It reflects National Park Service organizational values of teamwork, delegation to the most effective level, empowerment of employees, accountability, and reduction in overall paperwork.

**Director’s Order #2: Park Planning.** This director’s order revises and replaces the policies and guidance included in Chapter 2 of the National Park Service *Management Policies* (NPS 1988) and the NPS-2 Planning Process Guideline (NPS 1982) as they relate to park planning. This director’s order documents the decision-making processes that result in the goals and actions specific to each unit of the national park system and those units of the national trails system administered by the National Park Service. Park planning is a vital intermediary step that links servicewide planning and decision making to park operations.

**Director’s Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making.** Director’s Order #12 provides the National Park Service’s agency guidance on implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The Department of the Interior produced its National Environmental Policy Act regulations as Part 516 of its departmental manual, and the National Park Service produced several National Environmental Policy Act handbooks. NPS-12 was issued in 1982. Director’s Order #12 is an update and revision of NPS-12, and it supersedes the 1982 version. Although it is termed a handbook, most of the sections derive in whole or in part from the Department of the Interior National Environmental Policy Act guidelines, giving them the force of law. Under the terms of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998, the “Secretary shall take such measures as are necessary to assure the full and proper utilization of the results of scientific study for park management decisions. In each case in which an action undertaken by the National Park Service may cause a significant adverse effect on a park resource, the administrative record shall reflect the manner in which unit resource studies have been considered.” The development of alternatives, analysis of impacts, and incorporation of the best available information, coupled with identification of environmentally preferable courses of action as called for in Director’s Order #12, are among the steps required in meeting this

obligation to the public. The *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment* was developed consistent with Director's Order #12.

**Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management.** The National Park Service, as steward of many of America's most important cultural resources, is charged to preserve them for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Management decisions and activities throughout the National Park System must reflect awareness of the irreplaceable nature of these resources. The National Park Service will protect and manage cultural resources in its custody through effective research, planning, and stewardship and in accordance with the policies and principles contained in the National Park Service *Management Policies*. The National Park Service will comply with the substantive and procedural requirements described in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*. Additionally, the National Park Service will comply with the 1995 Programmatic Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

**Director's Order #50B: Occupational Safety and Health.** The National Park Service has a continuing concern about the health and safety of its employees and others who spend time in the parks – whether as visitors, volunteers, contractors, concession employees, or in any other capacity. Those who participate in work or recreational activities in the parks are always, to some extent, exposed to the risk of accident, injury, or illness. In recognizing this, the National Park Service is committed to reducing these risks and the associated pain, suffering, and financial expense. The overall purposes of the National Park Service risk management program are to establish and implement a continuously improving and measurable risk management process that: (1) provides for the occupational safety and health of National Park Service employees; (2) provides for the safety and health of the visiting public; and (3) maximizes the utilization of National Park Service human and physical resources, and minimizes monetary losses through effective workers' compensation case management.

**Director's Order #77-1: Wetland Protection.** The wetland protection provisions of the 1980 National Park Service *Floodplain Management and Wetland Protection Guidelines* (45 CFR 35916, minor revisions in 47 CFR 36718), and any other conflicting instructions or delegations of authority, are superseded and replaced by this director's order and by Procedural Manual #71-1. Approved in 1998, the manual was developed for use by the National Park Service in carrying out its responsibilities under Executive Order 11990. The general policies, requirements, and standards included in the manual are:

- No net loss of wetlands and a long-term goal of net wetland gain
- Parkwide wetland inventories
- Restoration and enhancement of degraded wetland habitats
- Planning and siting to avoid or minimize effects to wetlands
- Restoration of degraded wetlands as compensation for adverse effects to wetlands
- Compliance with federal environmental regulations

**Director's Order #77-2: Floodplain Management.** This director's order applies to all National Park Service proposed actions, including the direct and indirect support of floodplain development that could adversely affect the natural resources and functions of floodplains or increase flood risks. This policy provides National Park Service direction on complying with



Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management. Director's Order 77-2, together with its accompanying Procedural Manual 77-2, replaces the National Park Service floodplain management guidance provided in Special Directive 93-4, Floodplain Management Guideline. The general policies, requirements, and standards included in the manual are:

- Protect, preserve, and restore the natural resources and functions of floodplains
- Avoid the long- and short-term environmental effects associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains
- Avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development and actions that could adversely affect the natural resources and functions of floodplains or increase flood risks
- Restore, when practicable, natural floodplain values previously affected by land-use activities within floodplains

**Director's Order #83: Public Health.** The National Park Service hosts nearly 300 million visitors to the national parks each year. To provide for visitor enjoyment of the parks, the National Park Service operates (directly or indirectly) water supply systems, waste management systems, food service operations, bathing beaches, swimming pools, and overnight accommodations. In most cases, there are federal, state and/or local codes – designed to protect the public health – which govern the conditions under which these facilities and services are provided. To ensure these facilities and services are operated in a safe and healthful manner, and according to existing public health laws and regulations, the National Park Service Public Health Program conducts health risk and environmental compliance assessments. The purpose of this director's order is to outline what the National Park Service will do to ensure compliance with prescribed public health policies, practices and procedures. This order establishes National Park Service policy with respect to all public health activities within areas of National Park Service jurisdiction, regardless of whether those activities are carried out by National Park Service or other federal employees, or by other organizations, including the U.S. Public Health Service.

## Yosemite National Park Plans

**Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan.** The *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* provides a framework for decision-making on future management actions within the Merced River corridor. This will be accomplished through the application of a consistent set of decision-making criteria and considerations composed of seven management elements: boundaries, classifications, Outstandingly Remarkable Values, the Section 7 determination process, management zoning, the River Protection Overlay, and the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection framework.

**Resources Management Plan for Yosemite National Park.** Approved in 1993, the *Resources Management Plan* addresses specific natural and cultural resources issues. Natural resource issues addressed include the role of fire in the ecosystem, non-native-plant control, forest pest control, horse and mule grazing, protection of special-status species, human/bear conflicts, other wildlife and fisheries management programs, and the park's research program. The *Resources Management Plan* also addresses management of cultural resources, including archeological and American Indian traditional resources, as well as cultural landscapes, museum collections, and historic structures.

**Yosemite Fire Management Plan.** Fire is a natural process of the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park. The recurrence of fire shapes the ecosystems of the park, with many common plants exhibiting specific fire-adapted traits. The National Park Service adopted a *Fire Management Plan* in 1990 that provides clear guidelines regarding when and where to allow wildland and prescribed fires to burn. The National Park Service is in the process of updating its *Fire Management Plan*. The goal of natural and prescribed fire management in Yosemite is to restore or maintain natural fire regimes to the maximum extent possible so that natural ecosystems can operate essentially unimpaired by human interference.<sup>1</sup>

**Yosemite General Management Plan.** The 1980 *General Management Plan* restates the park mission in the following management objectives:

- Conduct continuing research to gather and analyze information necessary for managing natural resources
- Restore altered ecosystems as nearly as possible to conditions that would exist had natural ecological processes not been disturbed
- Protect threatened and endangered plant and animal species and reintroduce, where practical, those species eliminated from the natural ecosystems
- Identify and perpetuate natural processes in park ecosystems
- Permit only those types and levels of use or development that do not significantly impair park natural resources, and direct development and use to environments least vulnerable to deterioration
- Limit unnatural sources of air, noise, visual, and water pollution to the greatest degree possible

The plan proposed boundary changes and acquisitions, extensive changes to developed sites, and removal of cars from Yosemite Valley as a long-term goal.

**Yosemite Human/Bear Management Plan.** The goal of the *Human/Bear Management Plan* is to “restore the natural ecology, distribution, and behavior of black bears through control of human activities.” To this end, the plan directs specific actions and responsibilities to reduce the potential for bear/human interaction.

**Yosemite Valley Geologic Hazard Guidelines.** The *Yosemite Valley Geologic Hazard Guidelines* provide direction on the management of existing facilities and placement of new facilities within the base of talus and shadow line zones. With respect to new facilities, the National Park Service:

- Should place new structures or uses in the essential, hazardous, and special occupancy categories outside the base of talus and shadow line zones, unless no practicable alternative exists and all safety and hazard probability factors have been considered
- Should place structures in the standard occupancy category outside the base of talus zone, unless no practicable alternative exists and all safety and hazard probability factors have been considered
- May place miscellaneous structures in any area if there is no practicable alternative, before locating new miscellaneous structures in the base of talus zone, the National Park Service should conduct a site-specific review that includes safety and hazard considerations

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<sup>1</sup> In the *Fire Management Plan*, wildland fires are defined as those ignited by lightning, and prescribed fires are defined as those ignited by management.

**Yosemite Valley Restricted Access Plan.** In Yosemite Valley, a Restricted Access Plan was implemented in 1995 to manage traffic on the busiest summer weekends when congestion was most severe. Using observations of traffic conditions and the judgment of park personnel, congestion was monitored using qualitative factors. When congestion reached unacceptable levels, access to the east end of Yosemite Valley was restricted, and on some occasions, visitors were turned away at the park entrance stations.

**Yosemite Valley Plan.** The National Park Service recently developed the *Yosemite Valley Plan* to implement the goals of the 1980 *General Management Plan* in Yosemite Valley. The *Yosemite Valley Plan* is designed to meet the resource preservation and visitor experience goals in Yosemite Valley, including natural and cultural resource management and restoration, visitor services and recreational opportunities, transportation, and employee housing. The *Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Environmental Assessment* is tiered from the *Yosemite Valley Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*.

**Yosemite Vegetation Management Plan.** The *Vegetation Management Plan* addresses the goals and objectives of managing the park's vegetative resources. These goals and objectives seek to:

- Delineate the legislative and administrative requirements that guide development of vegetation management objectives
- Refine the goals and objectives for vegetation management established in the Resources Management Plan
- Describe the dynamic environment of vegetation within the park and the social, cultural, and natural processes that influence the vegetation
- Discuss current vegetation management issues, information needs, and define management objectives, techniques, and strategies for achieving these objectives
- Provide an overview of the history of vegetation management
- Provide a summary of vegetation management planning needs to be addressed in the future, including the roles and responsibilities for planning and implementation